Expansion of Election Commission

1331. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for expansion of Election Commission is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, what are the objective for such a proposal; and

(c) whether the Government would convene all party meeting before taking any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expansion of Public Sector Shipyards

1332. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shipyards set up in the central public sector in the country;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to expand the ship repair turn-over; and

(c) if so, the proposals in details mooted for Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are seven central public sector shipyards in the country and three of them are in defence sector.

(b) and (c) Shipyards have been endeavoring to enhance ship repair turnover. Government has, however, also been extending financial support to shipyards for implementing plan schemes for renewal, replacement and augmentation of production facilities for shipbuilding and ship-repair. An outlay of Rs. 237.40 crores has been earmarked for the purpose in the Ninth Five-Year Plan for Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin, Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta and Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta.